INQ 111 04 – Fall 2017

Class Meeting: MWF 10:30 – 11:30 am

Shaw 313

Instructor
Dr. Pete Smith
Office: HSC 215
(724)946-7299
smithpm@westminster.edu

Office Hours
 MW 2:00 – 3:00 pm
TR 10:00 – 11:00 am
or by appointment

Course Description
Inquiry 111 is an introduction to your academic life at Westminster College as a student of liberal arts education. Its purpose and design are explained in the Preface and Introduction to your Inquiry Reader (pages v-x), as are the “business items” of the course—i.e., our objectives and desired outcomes, as well as your performance obligations.

Required Texts

Course Webpage
This course will use the Desire2Learn page for the course schedule, assignment submission, and copies of handouts.

Course Outcomes
At the end of the semester, you will be prepared to:
- Articulate and practice the values and methods of a liberal-arts education.
- Engage, experience, and explain different ways of knowing.
- Pursue interdisciplinary study and discussion of important issues
- Summarize, analyze, and evaluate different kinds of information.
- Demonstrate skills (e.g., critical thinking, interpersonal, technological, library searches)

Grades
Active Participation
Writing Assignments (three, three-page essays on assigned topics)
Co-Curricular Write-ups (three)
Projects (three, 2 @ 10% and 1 @ 15%)

Total 100%
Grade Breakdown

A  ≥ 90%
B+  87 – 89%
B   83 – 86%
B-  80 – 82%
C+  77 – 79%
C   73 – 76%
C-  70 – 72%
Etc.

Graded Work

- **Active Participation:** I divide ‘participation’ into two areas of equal importance:
  1. **Attention** – Listening to the instructor and each other, without private chatter
  2. **Speaking** – Contributing regularly, in small-groups or whole-class discussion

- **Co-curricular Reports (3):** You should attend at least 1 co-curricular activity each month during the semester (Sept., Oct., Nov.). In the week following the event, upload a typed essay analyzing it and your experience of it (see co-curricular form) on our D2L course page.  
  [**NOTE:** #1 should be a minimum of 300 words; #2 & #3, a minimum of 600 words.]

- **Writing Assignments (3):** You will be given the assigned topic for the three, minimum three-page essays well before the due date for each.

- **Projects (3):** Each project will involve varying degrees of researched inquiry and may include written, oral, and non-verbal components. (**NOTE:** Project 1 is the "Library Week" Assignment.) The projects are due as marked on the schedule. **I will provide assignment details in class in advance of each project.**

Academic Honesty

As scientists we must always exemplify honesty and integrity in everything that we do. The sciences as a whole and the communication between scientists are built on the belief that all data and observations are reported accurately and precisely. Nothing will ruin the career of a scientist faster than the claim of falsifying data or stealing someone else’s words or ideas. In other words, dishonesty and plagiarism are completely unacceptable. Any student engaging in plagiarism or dishonest activities should expect, as a minimum **FIRST penalty,** a failing grade on the specific assignment. In addition, the Dean of the College will be informed of this action and the reason for the action. The Dean may impose more sanctions at his discretion. I am obligated to inform the Dean of any perceived violation of the Academic Integrity Policy. A second offense during any of your four years will result in a one semester suspension. A third offense results in expulsion. The student always has the right to appeal any decision. If you have any questions about what is and what is not a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, please ask me. The best way to be safe is to remember to reference the original source if you use the ideas or words of another person and use your own data.
Attendance
Attendance is mandatory. Missing three classes with unexcused absences will result in a whole grade reduction. Your grade will be reduced by a whole letter grade for each absence after three. We will follow the policy in the College catalog for excused absences.

Assignments may be submitted after the due date. Any late assignments will be penalized 10% of the total possible points for each day the assignment is late. One minute late = one day late.

Additional Help
If you find that you are falling behind in the course and that you are not performing at your desired level even though you are studying heavily, I suggest that you make an appointment with Learning and Writing Services to discuss your approach to studying. Learning and Writing Services is staffed with qualified personnel whose job is to help you become a better student. You can contact the Learning and Writing Services by calling 6700. Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Faith Craig, Director of Disability Resources, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall. (e-mail: craigfa@westminster.edu; phone: 724.946.7192)

INQ 111 04 Fall 2017 Schedule
Part 1: Liberal Arts Education

Aug. 28: Syllabus and Introduction
Aug 30: "Westminster College Mission Statement” and "The Westminster Plan” (pp. 3 – 6) "Statement on Liberal Learning” (p. 15)
Sept. 1: “Angels on a Pin”, “Learning is Not Fun”, and “Making College ‘Relevant’” (pp. 47 – 55)
Sept. 4: “The Veils of Maya” (p. 16)
Sept. 6: “Parable of the Blind Men and the Elephant” (p. 33) and “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings” (p. 120)
Sept. 8: “The Allegory of the Cave” (p. 34)
Sept. 11: “Liberal Education, Moral Education” (p. 38) and “Effective Learning Begin with the Right Attitudes” (p. 31)
Sept. 13: "The Emperor’s New Clothes” (p. 44)
Sept. 15: Essay #1 Due and discussion
Must Attend Ready Session for Professional Networking Symposium
Sept. 18: Film Screening
Sept. 20: Film Screening
Sept. 22: Discussion of Film as it relates to liberal education
Sept. 25: Library Week
Sept. 27: Library Week
Sept. 29: Library Week

Part 2: Ways of Knowing

Oct. 2: “The Tree of Knowledge” (p. 108) and “Science and Religion” (p. 67)
Oct. 4: “Evolution as Fact and Theory” (p. 113)
Oct. 6: from ”Voodoo Science” (p. 124)
Project #1 (Library) Due
Oct. 9: Film Screening
Oct. 11: Film Screening
Oct. 13: Film Discussion as it relates to science as a way of knowing
Oct. 16: “Learning to See” (p. 94) and “Strategies for Looking” (p. 107)
Oct. 18: “Conceptual Art and Galvanizing” (p. 88)
Oct. 20: Jim Perkins Day – meet in Witherspoon Rooms
Essay #2 Due
Oct. 25: Faculty Scholarship Panels – meet in Witherspoon Rooms
Oct. 27: from ”What to Listen for in Music” (p. 80)
Oct. 30: “Shakespeare in the Bush” (p. 97)
Nov. 1: “Words” (p. 111), “Three Poems by Billy Collins” (p. 104), and “Persimmons” (p. 118)
Nov. 3: Project #2 Due and discussion of projects

Part 3: Liberal Arts in Action

Nov. 6: “The Gospel of Consumption” (p. 141) and “Don’t Blame Wal-Mart” (p. 160)
Nov. 8: “The Christian Paradox: How a Faithful Nation Gets Jesus Wrong” (p. 153)
Nov. 10:  “Why Protect Nature” (p. 182)

Nov. 13:  “Letter from Clergy” and “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (pp. 164 – 174)

Nov. 15:  Film Screening

Nov. 17:  Film Screening

Nov. 20:  Discussion of Film and Essay #3 Preparation

Nov. 27:  “The Idea of a Sacred Text” (p. 290)

Nov. 29:  Reading TBA

Essay #3 Due

Dec. 1:  Reading TBA

Dec. 4:  “The New Slavery” (p. 231)

Dec. 6:  “Microfinance Misses the Mark” (p. 252)
Discussion of Project #3

Dec. 8:  from “The World is Flat” and from “Banker to the Poor” (pp. 189 – 204)

Dec. 11:  8:00 – 10:30 AM – Project #3 Presentations